

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS IN OFFICER PERSONNEL ACT OF 1947

ON TEMPORARY PROMOTIONS

1. ARMY

a. General

Under the following circumstances, temporary appointments may be effected in the Department of Army in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Army. (As used herein, the term "temporary appointment" refers to the advancement of a commissioned officer to a higher grade.):

(1) Whenever the number of Regular Army officers serving under permanent appointments as major and brigadier generals is less than the number authorized for these grades and whenever the number of Regular Army officers of any promotion list holding permanent grades from first lieutenant through colonel is less than the number authorized for these grades respectively in such promotion list, the additional number authorized for these grades may be filled by temporary appointment. (Promotion lists consist of names of all active list commissioned officers in permanent grades below brigadier general--except officers in certain special categories, and the authorized number of each grade in a promotion list is specified by the Secretary of Army pursuant to the limitations by law.)

(2) Whenever under Congressional authorization the total number of all officers on active duty exceeds the authorized active list commissioned officer strength of the Regular Army, the Secretary of Army will determine the requirements in each grade and may fill them by temporary appointment of qualified officers.

(3) In time of an emergency or war, the President may make temporary appointments in the various grades, which shall continue, unless vacated, until the end of the emergency and for six months thereafter.

Commissioned officers on active duty in the Regular Army or a Reserve component are given temporary appointments to grades higher than their permanent grades without losing their permanent commissions, although the President may vacate any temporary appointment at any time. While serving in higher grades by virtue of temporary appointments, officers receive the pay and allowances authorized for permanent officers in such grades.

The Officer Personnel Act of 1947 provides for the President to designate the permanent or temporary appointment of generals and lieutenant-generals within the maximum number specified by law.

Temporary promotions of qualified officers to grades of major through major general may be made by headquarters when they are recommended for promotion to these grades by selection boards. Officers may be given temporary promotions to the grade of captain by major commands and to the grade of first lieutenant by subordinate commands, if headed by a general officer.

b. Procedure for Making Temporary Promotions to Grades of Major Through Colonel

The procedure for determining which officers (major through colonel) are to be selected for temporary promotion is initiated by the establishment in headquarters of rosters of personnel sufficiently senior to be considered for promotion by selection boards. Two rosters are prepared--one consisting of Regular officers within range of the temporary grade concerned, arranged by permanent seniority, and the second consisting of non-Regular officers within range, arranged by their temporary dates of rank. When directed, immediate commanders prepare recommendations for or against the promotion of all officers under their command who are within the prescribed zone of consideration, provided that the officers have served twelve months in their grade on active duty and at least six months on their current tour of duty. The Army Regulations require immediate commanders to recommend only those whose performance of duty, general efficiency, technical qualifications and personal conduct warrant their promotion to a higher grade.

Upon receipt through channels of promotion recommendations, selection lists are prepared for use by selection boards. Selection boards are convened for the purpose of selecting eligible officers for temporary promotions. Each board is composed of three to five members senior in rank to the officers being considered. From the selection lists for each grade, the selection boards select officers for promotion by the "best qualified" method, the criteria being, among others, age, seniority, ability and efficiency. Over-all records of the officers concerned, including efficiency reports, are considered in the evaluations.

The names of officers approved for promotion are maintained on eligibility lists, in the order in which their names appeared on the selection lists that are submitted to the selection boards. Officers are then promoted in that order as vacancies occur.

Action is taken to reassign an officer who does not occupy a position according to the grade to which he is promoted. If a position does not exist in his officially assigned organization, he is reported as "surplus in grade" through channels. Each intermediate command either takes action, reassigns the officer or reports to the next highest command. Those reported as surplus in an overseas command remain assigned to the major command until absorbed by normal attrition or completion of an overseas tour.

2. NAVY

Under Title III of the Officer Personnel Act of 1947, the Secretary of Navy may determine the authorized number of officers who may serve in each of the various grades under temporary appointment, based upon the needs of the service, but the number cannot exceed the difference between the numbers of active list officers serving with permanent commissions in these grades and the authorized strength for such grades.

The Navy Department, like the Army, uses selection boards for designating officers eligible for promotion. The Secretary of Navy furnishes the appropriate selection board with among other data the names of all officers eligible for consideration for temporary promotion to the grade or grades to which the board will recommend temporary promotions. The Secretary provides the appropriate board with the number of temporary promotions by grades relative to the type of duty--unrestricted, limited, engineering, et.al. The Secretary of the Navy also establishes promotion zones for officers according to the various types of duty. For example, the promotion zone in any grade for officers not restricted in the performance of duty consists of the number of the most senior officers of the grade under consideration who are eligible for temporary promotion to the next higher grade. The number is based on estimated vacancies for each of the next five years, the number of such officers eligible for selection and their periods of service.

The selection board concerned considers the officers eligible for temporary promotion and recommends those officers whom it considers best fitted for temporary promotions. The number of recommendations is in accordance with the number furnished for the categories involved by the Secretary of Navy.

The names of recommended officers are placed on promotion lists according to the grades for which they were selected in the order of their seniority. Names of officers selected in a later report are placed on the promotion list below those selected for temporary promotion in an earlier report. In general, each staff officer recommended for promotion becomes eligible for promotion by the President to the grade for which he is selected when the line officer who is to be his "running mate" in the higher grade becomes eligible for promotion to that grade. A "running mate" system is used whereby each staff corps officer is assigned a line officer as a running mate who has the same date of rank in the highest rank in the highest grade, permanent or temporary, to which the staff officer is appointed.